



July 16, 2007

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte:

On behalf of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, I am pleased to offer our support for the conservation provisions contained in H.R. 2419 the 2007 Farm Bill. It is our view that the title offers a strong starting point for conservation policy and programs.

Thank you for recognizing the "Wildlife Legacy" of our nation's most successful conservation program benefiting wildlife and the environment, farmers and landowners, sportsmen and sportswomen, and society: the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and for continuing CRP as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's flagship conservation program. We appreciate having proven successful programs like CRP, the Wetlands (WRP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives (WHIP) Programs at the core of a strong conservation title.

In addition, I'd like to highlight you and your Committee's efforts to establish new baseline for both the Wetlands and Grasslands Reserve (GRP) programs; a task that is not easy in difficult budgetary circumstances. Thank you for including provisions for voluntary public access for sportsmen and sportswomen through the new "Open Fields" language and we are fully supportive of the new provisions to limit crop insurance on newly broken lands or the "sodsaver" provisions contained in H.R. 2419. We also support provisions within the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) benefiting forest habitats, the new Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEP), and language for Cooperative Conservation Partnerships (CCPI).

We view the conservation title as a strong starting point for conservation policy and programs and commend you and your staff for balancing a wide array of issues and difficult budget circumstances in drafting these provisions. We look forward to working together to ensure a complete comprehensive conservation title as part of the upcoming 2007 Farm Bill.

Respectfully yours,

Howard K. Vincent
President and CEO

original: Deb
cc: Jack
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Nona